



For Immediate Release
March 9, 2007

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Vitter, Alexander Announce Grant Funding for Vidalia

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Sen. David Vitter and U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander announced today that Vidalia will receive a federal grant of \$1.7 million for the expansion of the Gateway Visitors and Convention Center.

“We have all seen how important emergency shelters are during a disaster. And because of Concordia’s prime location in the middle of the state, the Gateway Center will be a crucial shelter for evacuees from across Louisiana,” said Vitter.

“In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the need for better emergency housing facilities in Louisiana was painfully apparent. Expanding the Gateway Visitors and Convention Center is one way the people of Concordia Parish can provide help to other Louisianans should another natural disaster occur in our state,” Alexander said.

This grant will be used to expand the Gateway Visitors and Convention Center to make it more suitable for housing evacuees during a disaster. The American Red Cross designated the facility as an official evacuee center in case of an emergency. The expansion will include the construction of a multi-purpose space, a kitchen, showers, general storage and mechanical space.

The grant is provided under the Community Facilities Grant Program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.